

Pam Smart Testifies in Assault Case

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP) — Still claiming she is innocent, Pamela Smart was forced yesterday to recount the details of the husband-killing case that sent her to prison for life.

"I was 22 years old, and I had a relationship with someone 16 years old," Smart said on cross-examination in a prison assault case for which she is the key witness. "The person murdered my husband, and to avoid a life sentence the person blamed me."

Questioned About 1991 Murder

Attorney Ted Brundage, representing one of two inmates accused of beating up Smart at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility in Westchester County, noted that a New Hampshire jury had rejected that version of events.

"Yes," Smart acknowledged.

In fact, Smart was convicted in 1991 of persuading her teenage

lover, William Flynn, to kill her husband and of tampering with a witness — Cecelia Pierce, another teenager who taped incriminating evidence against Smart.

"Did you attempt to get her to provide false information?" Brundage asked.

"That's what the jury thought," Smart said. "That's not what I thought."

Asked if she felt morally responsible for the killing, Smart said, "Just because I committed a moral indiscretion doesn't mean I committed a murder."

Smart's 1991 trial was a national sensation and inspired the movie "To Die For."

Smart was questioned for about an hour Monday and cross-examined for about 2½ hours yesterday, much of it for the extremely detailed, occasionally tedious questions of defense attorney Darien Zoppo. Zoppo said at the end of the day that he might need another "day or two" with Smart.